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Letter dated 18 April 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge a strong protest over the decision of the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) to illegally issue postage stamps for the resumption of postal traffic in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Yugoslavia, outside the postal traffic carried out by the Yugoslav PTT Association, the PTT administration of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

According to article 5 of the Universal Postal Convention (1994), "Only postal administrations shall issue postage stamps attesting payment of postage", whereby postal administrations are understood to be the entities designated by States to assume the responsibility for carrying out the obligations stemming from the accession of the States to the Universal Postal Convention. The only such administration in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of which is expressly recognized in Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, is the Yugoslav PTT Association. In taking over the responsibilities of the Association to issue postage stamps, i.e., to provide postal services within and without Kosovo and Metohija, UNMIK has been in breach of the relevant rules and regulations of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, article 10 of the Universal Postal Convention, as well as the provisions of the said resolution of the Security Council, and instrumental in severing the constitutional, legal and administrative links of Kosovo and Metohija with the Republic of Serbia and its eventual separation from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Bringing this unlawful act to your attention, I also take the opportunity to advise that the Yugoslav PTT Association, in its capacity as the postal administration of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, has addressed a circular letter to the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union requesting it to inform all its 189 members of the illegal issuance of postage stamps by UNMIK.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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